



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
1390 Miller Street, Room 303
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 24, 2017

TO: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: HB 937, HD 1, SD1 – Relating to Early Learning
Hearing Date: March 29, 2017
Time: 1:40 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 211

Purpose of Bill: Appropriate funds for the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) **supports** HB 937, HD 1, SD 1 with recommendations for amendments.

Family is the single most important influence in a child's life. Parents and families have the most direct and lasting impact on children's learning and development of social competence. Children thrive when parents actively promote their positive growth and development. Families are a child's first and lifelong partner in education and early childhood providers need to build the kind of relationships that engage families as active partners early in their child's education.

EOEL respectfully requests that the language in HB 937, HD 1, Section 1 be revised to: "The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for the implementation of services **which offer opportunities for family and community engagement as well as parent education and support.**" Section 2, lines 12 – 15 should also be replaced with the following, "...the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers to develop and implement programs that support families to take an active role in the social, emotional, and cognitive development of their young children."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

SUBJECT: HB 937, HD 1, SD 1 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING
Hearing Date: March 29, 2017
Time: 1:40 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 211

Purpose of Bill: RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

Makes an appropriation for the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family-child interaction learning programs.

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION’S POSTION: The State Public Charter School Commission **SUPPORTS** HB 937, HD 1, SD 1 – Relating to Early Learning.

The State Public Charter School Commission recognizes the importance of families as children’s first teacher. Engaged families contributes to healthy brain development, positive learning experiences, strong partnerships between home and school resulting in children being ready for school.

The State Public Charter School Commission **supports** the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family-child interaction learning programs. For these reason, the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

March 29, 2017

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB937 HD1 SD1 allowing the Executive Office of Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers offering family-child interaction learning programs (FCILs)

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The Coalition supports the State offering a variety of early learning and education options for our children. We like the FCILs, specifically because they are focused on engaging parents and families with their children in these critical early years. Some families may not want to enroll their children in a traditional pre-school program. FCILs offer an alternative to help parents/caregivers build their capacity to support their children, and give them the tools to guiding their children when they enter the K-12 system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Members and Participants

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
*Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
* Hawai'i State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

*Native Hawaiian Education Council
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Punahou School PUEO Program
*Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 1:40 P.M.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 937 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 937 HD1 SDI, which makes an appropriation for the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family-child interaction learning programs.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber strongly believes that focusing on early childhood is critical because brain development takes place by age five. We believe it is imperative to begin investing early in a child's life, when the brain is in this state of tremendous growth potential. In 2008, the Hawaii Economic Benefits Study of early education for Hawai'i showed that for every \$1 Hawai'i invests in a quality four-year early learning program, the state will receive a return of \$4.20. This is not only about return of investment, but in providing for our employees and their children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Native Hawaiian Education Council

March 28, 2017

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
State of Hawai'i Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Via: Electronic Upload - WAMtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: HB 937, HD1, SD1 – Relating to Early Learning

Aloha 'oluā mai,

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC or the Council) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB937, HD1, SD1** based on our:

- A. **Support of the Legislature's actions to:** The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with third-party providers for family-child interaction learning programs that support families to take an active role in the social, emotional, and cognitive development of their young children.
- A. **Platform and priorities to: Intensify Systems Engagement,** actions that intensify systems level action---federal, state, primary, secondary, tertiary, national and international, health, housing—to strengthen families and communities; and to engage in early learning planning and implementation work.

The Native Hawaiian Education Council was established in 1994 under the federal Native Hawaiian Education Act. The Council is charged with coordinating, assessing and reporting and making recommendations on the effectiveness of existing education programs for Native Hawaiians, the state of present Native Hawaiian education efforts, and improvements that may be made to existing programs, policies, and procedures to improve the educational attainment of Native Hawaiians.



Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
March 28, 2017
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Please feel free to contact the Council's Executive Director, Dr. Sylvia Hussey, directly via e-mail (sylvia@nhec.org), office (808.523.6432) or mobile (808.221.5477) telephone with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino, Chair

cc: Policy & Advocacy and Executive Committees and staff





KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 1:40 p.m.

Date: March 29, 2017

Where: State Capitol Room 211

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 937, HD1, SD1, Relating to Early Learning**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Tokuda, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Dela Cruz, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike o nā Loa'a a me nā Ho'olilo o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support HB 937 HD1, SD1**, relating to early learning, and offer the following comments:

Early childhood education and parental support is the cornerstone of the Kamehameha Schools Education Strategic Plan adopted in 2005, which seeks to foster long-term intergenerational change in the way Native Hawaiian families approach learning. Research demonstrates that early education is a key factor in lifelong success for all children, and we strongly urge the legislature to promote, enhance and support the efforts of the State of Hawai'i to appropriately address the needs of Hawai'i's pre-kindergarten children, including supporting family-child interaction learning programs as part of a mixed-delivery early learning system. By allowing the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family-child interaction learning programs, this measure will help to ensure school readiness for Hawai'i's children, especially Native Hawaiians, prior to entering kindergarten.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

'A'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.



TO: Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: Wednesday, March 29, 2017; 1:40 p.m., Conference Room 211

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 937 HD1, SD1 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

We support the intent of HB 937 HD1, SD1 – Relating to Early Learning. We support more early intervention and learning opportunities for our keiki, especially to the most vulnerable families in our community. Participation in early learning and development programs for school readiness have immediate and long-term benefits that include higher levels of educational achievement, reduced homelessness, reduced crime, reduced substance abuse, improved health, and overall better social and economic well-being.

The first 5 years of a child’s life provides the foundation for future growth and development. Access to programs at an early age will help early identification of developmental, social-emotional, and early learning issues.

Family-child interaction learning (FCIL) programs have a role in serving our keiki. We support FCIL’s that will provide comprehensive services to families most in need, that includes but not limited to: case management services, health and wellness support, education, crisis intervention, and employment support services for parents and caregivers. FCIL programs working in conjunction with a system of early learning (that includes center-based services, home visiting and family childcare) can assist our keiki and families.

It is of crucial importance that we invest in our keiki. **Children in Hawaii, no matter what their circumstance, deserve a chance.** This is also a key component to our war on intergenerational poverty.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii’s not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 937 HD1, SD1**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

March 27, 2017

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **HB 937 HD 1 SD 1– Relating to Early Learning**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211, March 29, 2017, 1:40 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 937 HD 1 SD 1 – Relating to Early Learning.

By providing the Executive Office on Early Learning funding and the opportunity to establish contracts with outside vendors for programs, new partnerships and opportunities will be available for our community. There are numerous, high quality programs across our state that provide culturally-relevant, multi-generational, parenting skills and child development programs for low-income, at-risk families. Currently there is not an avenue for these programs to be supported by the state, which dramatically limits the number of families they can serve.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2017 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2017policyagenda>.

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Ways and Means

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:40 p.m. Conference Room 211

Support for HB 937 Relating to Early Learning

Aloha,

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for the funding of family child interaction learning programs.

These programs provide families with tremendous support and prepare our keiki to make the transition into the formal learning process. Research has shown that there is a tremendous long-term savings to society when a child receives proper support and guidance from his/her most intimate caregiver. These caregivers, need the proper support to be their child's first and foremost influential educator.

Family child interaction learning programs work closely with parent to teach them how to be their child's first and foremost educator. It is a mixed delivery system that also equips parents to be well informed and how to be an advocate for their child.

Funding for these programs will provide a needed service to many of our keiki who today must enter a system without the proper preparation.

Please support HB 937.

Mahalo,



Daniel Goya

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Wednesday, March 29, 2017, 1:40 PM, Conf. Room 211

Support for HB 937, Relating to Early Learning

Aloha, my name is Jin Chang. I am the Co-Program Manager for Partners in Development Foundation's (PIDF) Ka Pa'alana Homeless Family Education Program, but I am submitting this testimony as an individual citizen and not as a representative of PIDF. I am in very strong support for the funding of family child interaction learning programs.

These programs provide families with tremendous support and prepare our keiki during their most critical years to make the transition into the formal learning process. Research has shown that there is a tremendous long-term savings to society when a child receives proper educational preparation. Research further shows that children perform better in school and achieve higher rates of graduation and lifelong success when parents are involved in their learning. And family child interaction learning programs equip parents to do just that by teaching parents how to be their child's first and most important educator. It is a mixed delivery system that also empowers parents to be an advocate for their child.

Funding for these programs will provide a needed service to many of our keiki who today enter a system without the proper preparation.

Please support HB937.

Mahalo,

Jin Chang
436-9013
jin3435@hotmail.com